

All.Net Analyst Report and Newsletter

Welcome to our Analyst Report and Newsletter

They found my email address on the dark web

I got a credit alert indicating that my credit rating went down by 3% in the last month. So naturally I looked at the scoring to see if something was incorrect in their information. What did I find? They apparently just added a new criteria. The presence of an email address on “the dark web”.

You have got to be kidding!

So anyone out there who wants to screw up the credit card ratings of everyone whose email address you can identify, all you have to do to have a 3% effect on everyone is to put their email address on file and make sure it is detected by the credit rating agencies. In other words, publish them. Every email address.

But how did the “dark web” find it?

Naturally, they “stole” it. And who did they steal it from? The credit reporting agencies, who have been one of the major sources of leaked information about consumers. So I guess the credit rating system is to blame for lowering my credit rating.

But I can pay them to fix it

That’s right. All I have to do is pay them and they will increase my credit score, put a watch on credit usage, and ...

It’s called extortion

Per Black’s Law Dictionary (online)

Extortion: The obtaining of property from another induced by wrongful use of actual or threatened force, violence, or fear, or under color of official right. 18 U.S.C.A. § 871 et seq.; § 1951.

In other words, they create fear by dropping your credit score, then offer to set the number back up if you pay them for services:

- Obtaining your property (your payment for their services to improve your score)
- by wrongful use (their leaks caused the thing they are now using as the basis)
- of threatened force or fear (your lower credit rating means you need to pay more to borrow and may lose the ability to live your life as you have)

It’s sort of like the phone company

You may recall that an unlisted number costs a monthly fee. But folks can pay more to get access to the unlisted numbers directory, and then you can pay more to not be in that one.

Conclusions

Presence of your email address on the “dark web” as a basis for credit ratings is security stupidity near the top of the list. Extorting people to fix what they created seems criminal.